

## **FACT SHEET**

### **PROPOSED RULE TO STAY THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE NATIONAL EMISSIONS STANDARD FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS FOR TWO TYPES OF COMBUSTION TURBINES**

#### **ACTION**

- On March 31, 2004, EPA proposed to stay, or delay, the enforcement of the combustion turbines hazardous air pollutant emissions standards for new turbines in the lean premix gas-fired turbines and diffusion flame gas-fired turbines subcategories.
- Along with this proposed rule, but under separate cover, EPA is proposing to remove four of the eight subcategories from the Combustion Turbine Source Category: 1) lean premix gas-fired turbines, 2) diffusion flame gas-fired turbines, 3) emergency stationary combustion turbines, and 4) stationary combustion turbines operated on the North Slope of Alaska.
- This proposal to delay enforcement applies only to new turbines in the lean premix gas-fired turbines and diffusion flame gas-fired turbines subcategories, because the national regulation requires controls for these subcategories and does not require controls for emergency turbines or for those located on the North Slope of Alaska.
- The stay is necessary to avoid wasteful and unwarranted expenditures on installation of emission controls which will not be required if these subcategories are delisted for regulation.
- EPA will take public comment on the stay for 45 days following Federal Register publication of the proposed rule. The Agency will hold a public hearing on the proposal if it receives requests within 7 days of publication.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- A combustion turbine is an engine in which fuel is burned and the products of combustion at high temperature and pressure are allowed to expand through a rotating turbine to produce power.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate industry sectors called source categories that emit hazardous air pollutants. These 188 hazardous air pollutants, listed in the Clean Air Act, are known, or suspected, to cause cancer or other serious health problems.
- The companion action to delist four subcategories from the combustion turbine source category is permitted under the Clean Air Act. The law allows EPA to consider petitions to remove source categories and subcategories from the list if no source in the category:

1. emits carcinogens in amounts that may result in a lifetime risk of cancer exceeding one in a million to the individual most exposed;
  2. emits noncarcinogens in amounts that exceed a level which is adequate to provide an ample margin of safety to protect the public health; and
  3. emits any single or combination of hazardous air pollutant(s) in amounts that will result in adverse environmental effects.
- Any person may petition EPA to delist a source category or subcategory. The EPA Administrator may also initiate the process.
  - Once EPA receives a petition, the Agency evaluates the technical merit of the petition, and determine whether it satisfies the requirements of the Clean Air Act. Once that comprehensive evaluation is complete, EPA decides whether to propose removing the source category or subcategory from the list to be regulated.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Copies of the original petition and its supporting information are available for public inspection and copying at the following address: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- Comments should be mailed to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102T), Attention Docket Number OAR-2003-189, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- For further information including the proposed rule and the Federal Register notice once published, go to EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>.